

We see people in crisis all the time. Sometimes it is immediate. Something happens and they go from OK to panic in a moment Other times it is something that is chronic and long term. Perhaps it is a financial issue, relationship issue, or like here health

How do you respond? How do you "Love Like Jesus?"

Because the reality is, when we see someone in crisis many times our FIRST reaction is to be overwhelmed. Too Big, Too Much

John 9:1-41

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How Do We Love Like Jesus?

1. Focus on the Future: Don't Make Assumptions And Don't Try To Place Blame.

Vs 1-5

The VERY FIRST thing the disciples wanted to do was place blame.

"How did he get here?"

>Him

>Parents

- **Cultural Assumption:** Sin is the result of someone doing something sinful: God is punishing them
Illus: We sometimes do the same thing, don't we? We think...They brought it on themselves!
If they didn't....Or if they would Just...Never see Jesus do that!

- **Hallmark of Jesus ministry!**

>Wedding and Wine >Woman adultery >Lepers healed >Blind man here

Every time Jesus did the same thing.

>Acknowledged reality:

Woman at well: Yea...The guy you are with isn't your husband

> Focused on Future:

Woman in adultery:..Go...sin no more

>Does something to help:

Blind man, Lepers, Woman...Gives what they need...moves on

- **Biblical Truth:** God is often doing something GREATER than what we know!
Why did this happen? We don't know for sure...even when we think we do:
Jesus Explains: So that the work of God could be displayed!
So That: *Purpose: God is doing something He has a plan!*
Displayed: *Made manifest; revealed, made apparent; declared*
We struggle with that...but Jesus is very clear...This man's struggle...was ultimately to demonstrate glory of God!
Is 55:8-9 *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,"*
- **Do What You Can Do To Help**
Vs 4: *"As long as it is day we must do the work of him who sent me"*
Notice the We part of what Jesus said: His assumption is that His disciples are joining Him in the work of God
That hasn't changed. If we are His disciples we are to be doing that as well
We will not always have that opportunity, but when we do we need to take it!

KEY # 1: Don't try to place blame, Don't Parse the Past: Point To The Future

Extend some compassion...

Do what you CAN do to help

2. Just Do What Jesus Tells You To Do And Leave The Results To Him.

Vs 6-12

I absolutely LOVE the way John tells the story here: So matter of fact, So "Easy" So Clear So Simple

The Story Is so Simple

- Jesus was following the direction of God
>Common folk remedy for the Jews: Forbidden on Sabbath
>Jesus broke another rule making clay: "Working on the Sabbath"
- The man is following the direction of Jesus
>Go wash
>Went and washed Vs 11: The man they call Jesus said...so I did...now I see!
<Came home seeing!

The Application to Life is Just as Simple

Vs 35-41

- Spiritual Blindness is cured just as simply as this physical blindness was
(You know this is the POINT of the story right? Miracles always point to something)
(Pharisees...Got done...STILL can't see...Because they Won't do what Jesus says...Just Believe)
- We are the man born blind
- We need to do what He did...Just listen and obey
- What Jesus tells us...seems just as impossible as what he told the blind man
>Wash in the pool...And you will see PHYSICALLY
>Wash in the blood of the one who died for you...And you Will see SPIRITUALLY
HYMN: Are You Washed In the Blood?

Key: 2: Just Do It: Share the Gospel: It is STILL just as simple now as it was then: Put your faith in Jesus

ABC: Acknowledge your sin Believe In Jesus

Confess your sin

3. Focus On What You DO Know, Not On What You DON'T Know.

Vs 12-34

All too often we get hung up on trying to understand every detail, trying to see the end from the beginning
God seldom works that way! More often than not He calls us to obedience...then once we OBEY...then we see the Way!
I want you to see that there are a LOT of people in this story..that don't' know what in the heck is going on!

- **Disciples:** Vs 2 Who sinned? Don't know
- **Jews:** Didn't know Jesus...Thought They did...
Vs 16: This man is not from God! (don't have a clue!) Their assumptions...man made rules...led them astray
How can this man (Jesus, A sinner...little did they know!) heal?
Vs 29: Don't know where Jesus came from
- **Parents** Didn't' know what happened to Him
Vs 21: How he can see now,
Who opened his eyes...WE don't know
- **Man:** Didn't know a LOT!
Vs 12, Doesn't know where Jesus went after healing
Vs 25, I don't know if he is a sinner or not!
Vs 27, Doesn't know enough to keep his mouth shut! "Do you want to be his disciple too?"
Vs 36: Doesn't know he has looked at the face of the messiah!

Key: 3 Here is what I want you to see here: You ONLY have to really know one thing to be able to help someone
You have to know what Jesus has done for YOU!
1 John 1:1-4 Once you have SEEN it!...Experienced it...Encountered Him for yourself...You have something to share!
You Can't Give away what you don't have!

CONCL:

Sometime this week you are going to meet someone in Crisis!

It could be immediate: Something has happened
It could be chronic: A lifetime of struggle

Do Three Things:

1. **Don't Place Blame..Make Assumptions:** Focus on What Jesus Can Do for them
2. **Just do what Jesus tells you do:** Tell them about His love, His Grace, His Peace
Offer them eternal life! Tell them how they can know Him
Point them To God...Answer to Why? I don't know...
3. **Tell them what you DO Know**
Share with them YOUR story...
Tell them your version of "I was blind but now I see!"
That's What John Newton did:
Wrote Amazing Grace
Shared with and was friends with William Wilberforce: